Procurement of substandard foodgrains by FCI

1250. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sub-standard foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount of loss due to procurement of sub-standard foodgrains and the amount of loss reported to have been caused to the other States due to sub-standard foodgrains supplied to them;

(c) whether some senior officers of FCI have been found involved in such-huge losses in collusion with the suppliers /middlemen/farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against such guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Year-wise/State-wise quantity of sub-standard/Beyond Rejection Limit (BRL) stocks procured/found BRL during squad inspection conducted by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in last three years is given below:

Quantity in MTs

Sl. No.	Name of Region	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1.	Madhya Pradesh	18.5	49.2	20
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1148	653	4525
3.	Uttar Pradesh	5647	1634	NIL
4.	Haryana	4494	3005	5439
5.	Punjab	88007	NIL	NIL

(b) No financial loss has been caused to the FCI in respect of the stocks found BRL/sub-standard in Madhya Pradesh as the stocks were either replaced by the millers at their own cost or liquidated without involving any quality complaint.

In respect of the stocks procurecd in Andhra Pradesh, entire quantity has been liquidated through normal channel without incurring any additional expenditure as the same were within issuable limits.

A loss of Rs.75.13 lakhs and Rs.37.35 lakhs has been suffered by the FCI due to procurement of sub-standard/BRL stocks in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana respectively.

No loss has been sustained in Punjab.

No loss has been caused to the States in this regard.

(c) to (e) Three Category- I officers were found involved in procurement of BRL stocks in Uttar Pradesh. In one case the penalty of Censure has been imposed. In another case the penalty of Censure and recovery of 15% of the estimated loss has been imposed. The third case is under process.

No senior officer was found involved in such procurement of sub-standard/BRL stocks in other States.

However, some other officers in Punjab who were involved in the procurement of sub-standard stocks have been proceeded against under the relevant rules of the FCI.

Supply of foodgrains to drought affected areas at higher rates

1251.SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are being supplied to the drought affected areas in the country at a higher rate than the rates at which foodgrains are exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for selling the foodgrains in the drought affected areas beyond the purchasing power of the affected people; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Central Government has been allocating foodgrains (rice and wheat) to the drought affected States free of cost for food for work programme. Foodgrains are also being allotted to the States for